

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**2013 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 9
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013.

Preliminary harvest from the July 17 opening, indicate a harvest of 181 king; 2,014 sockeye; 8,275 chum; and 34 coho salmon. King and sockeye harvests were below average, while chum harvests were above average for this date. As of July 18, cumulative harvests from District 4 are as follows: 1,830 king; 22,272 sockeye; 48,422 chum; and 43 coho salmon.

To this date the total passage through the Kanektok River Weir is 1,082 king; 98,969 sockeye; and 19,462 chum salmon. King salmon passage is well below average for this time, with sockeye passage being slightly above average. Chum salmon passage is about average for this time of the year.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers and waters of District 4 by 1:00 a.m. on Friday, July 19. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20.**

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013. The open area for this period is reduced. A temporary boundary line is established from approximately Big Beluga on the north side of the bay to Little Beluga on the south side of the bay. The boundary line is marked by buoys. District 5 will be open from this line to the western boundary of District 5 on the outside of the North and South spits. The outside boundary is marked by ADF&G regulatory markers on the beaches.

The open area of District 5 is reduced for the conservation of king salmon. ADF&G has determined that catches of king salmon on the Platinum side of the district are lower than catches on the Goodnews side of the district. This reduced area opening is to target abundant sockeye and chum salmon while conserving king salmon. King salmon escapements continue to be poor at the Middle Fork Goodnews River weir. Total catches and harvest rates of king salmon increased substantially during the two full district commercial fishing periods on July 12 and 15. During the reduced area period on July 17, the king salmon catch was substantially lower. With this information, it is warranted to reduce the open waters to aid in the conservation of king salmon.

Preliminary harvest during the July 17 commercial period was 21 king; 1,231 sockeye; 870 chum and 2 coho salmon. The harvest of king and sockeye salmon were below average for this date, while the harvest of chum salmon was slightly above average. As of July 18, the cumulative harvests from District 5 are as follows: 428 king; 19,487 sockeye; 11,127 chum; and 9 coho salmon.

To this date, there have been 401 king; 20,325 sockeye; and 8,322 chum salmon passed through the Middle Fork Goodnews River Weir. The king salmon passage continues to be poor and is well below average. Sockeye and chum returns are below average, but indicate a harvestable surplus of these species.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period. **Subsistence fishermen must have their nets out of the Goodnews River and waters of District 5 by 1:00 a.m. on Friday, July 19. Subsistence fishing will reopen at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20.**

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for this upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages.

Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.

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